

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 were pending. By this amendment, applicants have amended claims 1-13, 15, and 17, and cancelled claims 14, 16, and non-elected claims 18-20. New claims 21-30 have been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 2 of the office action, the examiner notes that an Information Disclosure Statement has been considered by the examiner. Applicants note that a further Information Disclosure Statement has been filed prior to the mailing of this amendment.

The examiner made a number of objections and rejections to claims in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the office action. It is believed that the amended claims address each of the bases for objection and rejection.

Claims 1-10 were rejected as being anticipated by Panico, U.S. Patent No. 4,495,040; and claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 11, 13, 14, and 16 were rejected as being anticipated by Buazza, U.S. Patent No. 5,928,575. Claim 15 was not rejected, but the examiner indicated that the restriction under Section 112 made it too unclear to be examined.

Claim 12, which depended on claim 4, was not rejected under any grounds, and has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the substance of claims 1 and 4. Claim 12 should be allowable, along with any claim dependent on claim 12.

With respect to claim 1, the examiner stated that the DVD was the material worked upon and was not considered part of the system. Applicants have amended claim 1 to make clear that the DVD in this particular claim is part of the system, and therefore it is anticipated by neither Panico nor Buazza.

Applicants also contend that the subject matter of claim 1 would not have been obvious. The experience in this field is that an elongated bulb has been used, and continues to be used, by other entities in the field of DVD curing. Examples of the use of such an elongated lamp is shown, for example, in U.S. Patent No. 5,785,793 and 6,406,770. In the latter patent, which has a priority date which is similar to that of the present application, it states that the source of ultraviolet rays are “cylindrical, oblong, xenon flash lamps 13 (FQ-20003 type produced by Ushio Inc.) having a tube diameter 10.5 mm and an effective arc length of about 200 mm.” As these examples indicate, contemporaneous systems made use of elongated lamps, despite the fact that various types of circular and helical lamps had already been known.

For the reasons above, claim 1 and claims dependent on claim 1 should be allowable over the cited references.

In addition, claim 4 further comprises a contoured reflector to provide light to the periphery of a DVD and not to the center. The examiner contends, without textual support, that this appeared to be done because a reflector had a hole in the center in prior Panico patent; however, nothing in that document indicates that there would have been less light, and a reflector could be contoured in such a way to provide light at that location.

New independent claim 11 makes clear that there can be first and second lamps, each having a circular turn, and each lying in a different plane parallel to and spaced from a first plane with a work piece. FIG. 4 of the present application would be an example of such an embodiment. The examiner’s basis for rejection of a claim of this type is that Buazza discloses the use of a helix. It is believed, however, that a typical helical lamp would not have turns in planes parallel to a work piece, but would be angled, and secondly the central axis around which

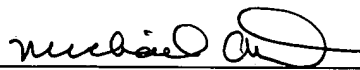
the helix is oriented is typically parallel to the plane of the work piece and not perpendicular. Thus, the cited references do not have a lamp system with first and second lamps, each having at least one circular turn and each lying in a different plane parallel to and spaced from the first plane in which the work piece lies.

New independent claim 21 also relates to a pulse lamp system with a circular turn, but makes clear that the beginning and end of the turns are at an inner and outer radius that is spaced from a center, unlike the lamp shown in the prior Panico '040 patent in which the spiral starts (or ends) at a center point 16. In the present case, the spiral starts at an inner radius spaced away from the center to avoid providing unnecessary energy to the center of the workpiece. In this particular case, this lamp is useful with a DVD because the DVD does not need light at the center. The cited references do not have such a configuration, and therefore claim 21 should be allowed over the cited references.

Please charge any fee or credit any excess that may be due in connection with this matter to our deposit account No. 08-0219, and please consider this a request for any extension fee that may be due in connection with this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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